

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-4 (Previously Withdrawn)

Claims 5-29 (Previously Cancelled).

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for securing a fin to a sports board, comprising:

a housing ~~that covers sized and shaped to cover~~ a fin mounting fastener;

a first shaft having a first end connected to the housing and a second end extending away from the housing; ~~perpendicular to said housing, sized and shaped to extend within a channel located on a bottom surface of said sports board;~~

a tab located at the second end of the first shaft that engages a lip of a sports board channel when said apparatus is in a locked position and that disengages the lip when said apparatus is in an unlocked position; ~~a first end of said first shaft, said tab sized and shaped to engage a lip of said channel when said apparatus is in a locked position, and to disengage said lip when said apparatus is in an unlocked position;~~

a second shaft spaced a fixed distance from the first shaft, the second shaft having a first end connected to the housing and a second end extending away from the housing, ~~perpendicular to said housing, sized and shaped to extend into said channel; and~~

a locking mechanism that prevents ~~for preventing~~ removal of the housing from the sports board when the locking mechanism apparatus is in a locked position and that allows ~~for allowing~~ removal of the housing from the sports board when the locking mechanism apparatus is in an unlocked position.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein ~~the first shaft extends from a the bottom surface of the housing when the apparatus is in either the locked or unlocked position and the second shaft comprises a retractable deadbolt that extends into the channel when the apparatus is in a locked~~

position, and retracts into the housing when the apparatus is in an unlocked position.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the locking mechanism is used to extend and retract the second shaft.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the second shaft extends from a the bottom surface of the housing when the apparatus is in either the locked or unlocked position and the first shaft is rotatable about an axis perpendicular to the bottom surface of the housing.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the locking mechanism is used to rotate the first shaft about the axis.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a depression, ~~said depression~~ located on a the bottom surface of the housing, that receives ~~sized and shaped to accept~~ said fin mounting fastener.

36. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for securing a sports board fin to a sports board, comprising:
means for covering a fin mounting fastener; and
means for locking said means for covering ~~covering means~~ to a bottom surface of the sports board.

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said locking means ~~the means for locking said covering means in place~~ comprises:

a first shaft having a first end connected to the means for covering and a second end extending away from the means for covering perpendicular to said housing, sized and shaped to extend within a channel located on a bottom surface of said sports board;

a tab located at the second end of the first shaft that engages a lip of a sports board channel when said apparatus is in a locked position and that disengages the lip when said apparatus is in an unlocked position—~~a first end of said first shaft, said tab sized and shaped to engage a lip of said channel when said apparatus is in a locked position, and to disengage said lip when said apparatus is in an unlocked position;~~

a second shaft spaced a fixed distance from the first shaft, the second shaft having a first end connected to the means for covering and a second end extending away from the means for covering, ~~perpendicular to said housing, sized and shaped to extend into said channel;~~ and

a locking mechanism ~~that prevents~~ for preventing removal of the means for covering housing from the sports board when the apparatus is in a locked position and ~~that allows~~ for allowing removal of the means for covering housing from the sports board when the apparatus is in an unlocked position.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the first shaft extends from ~~a~~ the bottom surface of the means for covering housing when the apparatus is in either the locked or unlocked position and the second shaft comprises a retractable deadbolt that extends into the channel when the apparatus is in a locked position, and retracts into the means for covering housing when the apparatus is in an unlocked position.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the locking mechanism is used to extend and retract the second shaft.

40. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the second shaft extends from ~~a~~ the bottom surface of the means for covering housing when the apparatus is in either the locked or unlocked position and the first shaft is rotatable about an axis perpendicular to the bottom surface of the means for covering housing.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the locking mechanism is used to rotate the first shaft about the axis.
42. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising a depression, ~~said depression~~ located on a the bottom surface of the means for covering ~~covering means~~, that receives ~~sized and shaped to receive~~ said fin mounting fastener.
43. (Previously Presented) A method for securing a sports board fin to a sports board, comprising:
covering a fin mounting fastener with an object; and
locking the object to the sports board.
44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein covering the fin mounting fastener comprises:
placing a housing over the fin mounting fastener by inserting a first shaft protruding from a bottom surface of the object into a channel of the sports board, the first shaft having a tab located at an end distal ~~distillate~~ from the bottom surface, the tab parallel to the channel.
45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein locking the object to the sports board comprises:
rotating the object with respect to a channel of the sports board, thereby engaging a tab, located on a distal ~~distillate~~ end of a shaft protruding from a bottom surface of the object, with a lip of the channel; and
extending a second shaft into the channel, thereby preventing rotation of the object; and
locking the second shaft into the channel.

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46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein covering the fin mounting fastener comprises:

placing a housing over the fin mounting fastener by inserting a first shaft and a second shaft protruding from a bottom surface of the object into a channel of the sports board, the first shaft having a tab located at an end distal ~~distillate~~ from the bottom surface, the tab parallel to the channel.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein locking the object to the sports board comprises:

inserting a first shaft and a second shaft into a channel of the sports board, the first shaft and the second shaft extending from a bottom surface of the object;

rotating the first shaft around an axis perpendicular to the bottom surface of the object, the first shaft having a tab located at a distal ~~distill~~ end of the first shaft from the bottom surface of the object, thereby engaging the tab with a lip of the channel.